

species typical of these parts of the Alps. The volume is completed with a chapter on botanizing in the Alps, in which a plea is made for caution lest rare species be eradicated, and on the protection of the nature of the Alps so that future generations also will be able to enjoy the same beauty observed by present visitors. There is a short bibliography and good indices to both volumes at the end of the second volume.

Although the descriptions in these volumes are based on the flora and vegetation of the Alps, they are of great interest also to those who are concerned with the plants of American mountains, notably those in New England. Naturally, the species are rarely the same, and the communities are also very different and never as colorful here as in the Alps, but the general character of the vegetation is rather similar and its history may also be somewhat comparable in these formerly periglacial mountain complexes.

The delightful volumes by Professor Favarger are a great tribute to the many botanists of the region he treats past and present. The literary abilities of the author and his deep knowledge of the flora and vegetation of his Alps greatly enhance the value of the books. The artist, P. A. Robert, is also worthy of praise, and so is the printer and publisher. The books are to be recommended not only to those interested in mountains in general and the Alps in particular, but also to botanists and botanically minded tourists visiting the Alps. A careful study of the volumes before such a visit will greatly increase its value and also open one's eyes to the many features in botany which nowhere are more distinct and better studied than in the Alps in Switzerland. —

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POTENTILLA ANGLICA IN NEW YORK. — For over eight years I have observed in the Bronx and in Brooklyn, New York City, a creeping *Potentilla* that answers to the description of *P. anglica* Laicharding (*P. procumbens* Sibth.). In November, 1956 I observed, but did not collect, the same species in a yard at Great Neck, Nassau County, Long Island. My collections, deposited in the Herbarium of The New York Botanical Garden, are *Monachino s.n.* (6-22-50), formerly the grounds of The New York Botanical Garden, near the Allerton Avenue entrance, June 22, 1950; *s.n.* (10-28-53), (N. Y.), south of the Conservatory, on a lawn near Juniper plantings, at least two major patches, Oct. 28,

1953; 622, same station, June 30, 1958; also two fragments collected as vouchers and placed in packets are from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, N. Y. C., on a lawn, June 30, 1956, and June 7, 1958. The species has flowers chiefly 4-petaled and stem leaves predominantly 3-foliolate. It forms a conspicuous, low, dense colony; the repent stems branch and they often root at the nodes; the basal leaves are 5-foliolate, the stem leaves most 3-foliolate. The petioles in the plants examined are up to 3.5 cm. long; the corolla is 10–15 mm. across, the petals are a little longer than the sepals, obovate, slightly emarginate at the apex, bright yellow on the upper side, orange-yellow at the base; the carpels are about 20–25 in number. Many achenes in no. 622 have become enlarged and plump, but are not fully matured. Our plant is the small-flowered form named f. *parviflora* Domin in Wolf's monograph (1908). Clapham et al. (1952) describe the diameter of the flower of *P. anglica* as (10–) 14–18 mm. and the number of carpels as 20–50; they call the plant trailing tormentil. The 4-merous flower (4 petals, 4 sepals, 4 epicalyx segments) easily identifies the species in the standard floras. Rydberg (1908) has it in the small group *Tormentillae*, characterized by the flowers solitary, axillary, on long pedicels, leaflets not tomentose beneath. *P. canadensis* is a neighboring species and from a distance *P. anglica* appears similar, until one approaches and notices that the bright yellow corolla is 4-merous. The colony is conspicuous enough, but "merely a yellow flower on the lawn" does not invite investigation, and it may well pass as any low cinquefoil or even a lady-sorrel or a buttercup.

In Canada the species is known from Labrador, Newfoundland, Cape Breton Island and Nova Scotia, according to Fernald (1950). For the United States it has been reported from only two states. Rydberg (1908) cited it as introduced in California. Dix (1949) was the first to report it from the East. He collected it near Lake Shehawken, Wayne Co., Pa.; he wrote that its identity was confirmed by Fernald, that it was abundant and grew on a somewhat wet rocky slope with the usual pasture grasses and adventives, that it blossomed late in the fall and that the flowers were 10–13 mm. broad. He added that another locality

about a quarter of a mile south was discovered in Sept. 24, 1949. The species was again mentioned for Lake Shehawken, as seen on the Torrey Botanical Club trip to the area, by Louis E. Hand in Bull. Torrey Club (1950) 77: 408.

Gleason (1952) does not cite the eastern Pennsylvania station. He persists in using the binomial *P. procumbens* Sibthorp (published in 1794) instead of the earlier *P. anglica* Laicharding (published in 1790); but I have not looked into the matter of nomenclature. Until recently when Laicharding's earlier, but obscure, binomial was revived, the name *P. procumbens* was in uniform use everywhere. Incidentally, in his key Gleason distinguishes the species by its 4-merous flowers from *P. reptans* L. with flowers "all 5-merous" but the illustration of the latter in the same work shows clearly four petals. Also, for one described as having "leaflets 5 or 7" the figure of *P. reptans* too much suggests some trifoliolate leaves. I could not trace the actual specimens from which the illustrations of *P. reptans* and *P. anglica* were drawn for the New Illustrated Flora, but if they were drawn from the proper species, the widely spreading hairs as shown on stems and pedicels of both must have originated in the artist's unchallenged imagination.

As unquestioned as the identity of the species appears from description, I could not check my specimen of *P. anglica* with authenticated European material, and such a comparison would be desirable. It has already been hinted how the trailing tormentil may be overlooked as a common cinquefoil or some other low-growing yellow-flowered plant. I would predict that interested persons thus alerted will discover *P. anglica* elsewhere, particularly on lawns, and will eventually prove it to be fairly widespread in its eastern range. — JOSEPH MONACHINO, NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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